RIGHTS OF WAY UPDATE

The Definitive Map Modification Order that was due to go before the Eastern Area Planning Committee on June 17th was postponed and is now taking place this coming Thursday.

Carol has been in touch directly with the overall Farm Manager, Will Rahder who has outlined what the intentions are. There is now a gap, where the gate was by the Lone Beech. At the far end of this Bridleway (OTSA5) where it meets the 4 Mile Clump track, the fence and hedge are to be opened up, once the current harvest is over. The new gate (which will be locked eventually) by the bench, has had a “Hunting Gate” put alongside it, so that the bench will never be inaccessible. The new owners have no intention of causing problems for bona fide users of the Bridleway. All they are seeking to do is prevent the off road vehicles from causing crop damage and to put a stop to the Hare coursers, who they have already had numerous visits from.

Carol managed, quite by chance, to catch Stephen Leonard (Rights of Way Officer) while he was on his way to Ogbourne to mark the fence on the 4 Mile Clump road, where the end of OSTA5 was. He was happy to look at where the waymarking signs could be put for OSTA27 to indicate where the actual line of the Bridleway is. Whilst walking across to the gate to access OSTA27 from the Green Lane he noticed several anomalies, one of which was that some misleading signs have been put up in a couple of places saying “Permitted Bridleway Permitted Footpath” and underneath another saying “Permissive Bridleway”. The places they have been put are actual Bridleways – end of. He will be arranging for replacement “Bridleway” marker signs to be put up, at some stage.

As well as the misleading signs he spotted that the section of OSTA5 on Catherine Burrells land was obstructed in 2 places by gates that were wired closed. He also commented on the true line of OSTA6 (Green Lane) which crosses the gallops and leads down to the 4 Mile track, that the gate and stile shouldn’t be there.